



THE PACT:

THE PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL TRIBUTE NEWSLETTER

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2018 EARTH DAY CELEBRATIONS: PAC HIGHLIGHTS

For the 29th year, Friends of the Parks coordinated the Annual Chicagoland Earth Day Clean-Up and spring kick-off with 136 local partners, including park advisory councils (PACs). Earth Day turned out to be a success for many this year, including seasoned and new groups too! PACs coordinated the community volunteer event to spruce up their park by engaging neighbors in picking up trash, mulching trees, adding woodchips to playgrounds, and cultural and arts activities. Here are some of the highlights from just a few of the PACs that participated.

HUMBOLDT PARK EARTH DAY



Humboldt Park had a big turnout with over 700 volunteers, sponsors, and helpers of all ages. The day began with volunteers splitting up into groups picking up trash, mulching trees, and planting trees. After the clean-up, the afternoon rounded off the day with lunch and a celebration, including performers, guest speakers, and organizations tabling and offering family friendly activities: the girl scouts showed how to make bird feeders, the Avengers' offered hot chocolate, Friends of the Parks passed out MWRD tree saplings, and much, much, more. The event turned out to be a big success, and many volunteers went home happy and satisfied for the work they have done in their park.

EUCLID PARK EARTH DAY

Euclid Park had a great presence from children to seniors, young men, the PAC, park staff, and the State Representative. Everyone was engaged and worked well together to clean-up and steward their park! The event had a very good turnout and the park made lots of progress, thanks to the great teamwork of the Euclid Park Advisory Council, the local Euclid Park staff, and the amazing volunteers who participated!

CLARA SCHAFER PARK EARTH DAY



The presently forming South Works Park Advisory Council engaged neighbors in activating one of the three parks they plan to steward—even before they have officially formed! The budding PAC decided to engage neighbors in mulching trees at Clara Schafer Park, a park that presently lacks many amenities, including benches. To celebrate the group's hard work, volunteers ended the day with a picnic that included a delicious barbeque of chicken and fish!

REVERE PARK EARTH DAY



One of the newer PACs, the Revere Park Advisory Council, worked with the Revere Park staff to engage (continued on page 2 →)

(Continued from page 1) neighbors in a park spruce up. Coffee and donuts, donated by a local Dunkin' Donuts, greeted volunteers as they signed in. Volunteers grabbed garbage bags, brooms, leaf blowers, and rakes to clean up leaves and garbage, and to mulch trees. The PAC president and Lion Scout leader even led the local Lion Scouts in a seed planting activity, and tree and Earth Day lesson!



Top Far Left: Revere Park Earth Day. Bottom Far Left: Clara Schafer Park Earth Day. Left: Euclid Park Earth Day. Humboldt Park Earth Day (Page 1, Top Left) Photo Credit: Charlie Billups

FOTP ARCHIVES: CONFERENCES THROUGHOUT THE DECADES

Friends of the Parks has offered many iterations of conferences for park advocates over our long history. In 1999, we collaborated with the Chicago Park District to hold the Park Planning Conference titled, "Building Community, One Park at a Time," and hosted several Institutes years after. In 2010, we again collaborated with the District and co-sponsored the Park Advocacy Conference, until the Chicago Parks Foundation took on our role and renamed it the Park Advisory Council Conference in 2016.

Looking back even further to 1987, Friends of the Parks co-sponsored an all day conference with the University of Illinois, Nathalie P. Voorhees Center for Neighborhood and Community Improvement. The conference titled "Rethinking the Role of Chicago's Neighborhood Parks: Towards the 21st Century" drew in park activists, Chicago Park District staff, and park advisory council members. In 2017, we looked back on this conference and believed that the year marked a great need to revisit and talk about our parks as democratic spaces. What came about was the 2017 conference titled, "Rethinking the Role of Chicago's Neighborhood Parks: Parks as Democracy?"

In 2018, we now celebrate the 125th anniversary of the World Exposition, where Frederick Douglass and Ida B. Wells spoke of lack of equity and inclusion of African-Americans while advocates for women and the LGBT community also spoke about similar issues. And, 35 years ago, the Chicago Park District entered into a court-ordered Consent Decree in settlement of a lawsuit brought by the US Department of Justice because of discrimination against Chicago's minority communities. With this backdrop, we invite you to join us for the 2nd Annual "Parks as Democracy Conference" for a provocative day-and-a-half gathering to study the history, analyze the issues, and develop action plans collaboratively to more fully promote and preserve our public lands as democratic spaces. Register today at www.fotp.org for the June 8 & 9 2nd Annual "Parks as Democracy?" Luncheon & Conference, "In Black and White? A Continuing Conversation about Parks as Democratic Spaces."



Top: 2010 Park Advocacy Conference. Center and Bottom: 2014 Park Advocacy Conference

THE
FOTP
TREE
SAYS...



...draft and/or schedule your Facebook posts ahead of time. Did you know you can draft and even schedule your posts for your PAC's Facebook page? This can help you build a strategy to create teasers and store ideas as drafts, and even schedule them for Facebook to post them at the day and time you designate. This way you can write all your posts at once and decide when to make them public, or save them as drafts and revisit them at a later time. You can then go back any time and reschedule or edit them.

Here is how you can do it:

- Open the page of your PAC on Facebook
- Go to 'Publishing Tools' on the top bar of the page (you will see this if you are an admin for the page)
- Click on 'Scheduled Posts' or "Drafts" on the bar to the left
- To create a new one, click on 'create' on the right corner
- Chose the date and time for your post to go live
- Or, don't schedule your post and save it as a draft.

Happy drafting, scheduling and posting!